(Ireland.) 15th May 1189.

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To appoint Commiſſioners to enquire and examine into the nature and extent of the several Bogs in *Ireland*, and the practicability of Draining and Cultivating them, and the best means of effecting the same.

Note—*The Figures in the Margin denote the Number of the Folios in the written Copy.*

WHEREAS there are large Tracts of undrained Bog in *Ireland*, the Drainage whereof is neceſſary for their being brought into a ſtate of Tillage: Preamble.

And whereas the adding their contents to the Lands already under Cultivation would not only increaſe the Agriculture of *Ireland*, and contribute much to its reſources for the ſuſtenance of the Britiſh Empire and its profitable export of Corn, but is highly expedient towards promoting a ſecure ſupply of Flax and Hemp within the United Kingdom for the uſe of the Navy and ſupport of the Linen Manufacture, independent of Foreign Nations and of the interruptions ariſing from the influence of political events upon Foreign Trade:

And whereas the appointment of Commiſſioners for the purpoſe of aſcertaining the extent of ſuch Bogs, and the practicability and expence of draining the ſame, and for the other purpoſes hereinafter mentioned, will materially aſſiſt in effecting their cultivation;

Be it therefore Enacted by the KING's Most Excellent MAJESTY, by and with the Advice and Conſent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this preſent Parliament aſſembled, and by the Authority of the ſame, That

ſhall be and they are hereby appointed to be Commiſſioners for aſcertaining the extent of all ſuch Bogs in *Ireland* as ſhall by repute or eſtimation exceed the extent of Acres; and for enquiring and examining into the practicability of draining each ſuch Bog, Commiſſioners.

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Bog, and into the beſt mode and probable expence of effecting ſuch Drainage; the depth of Bog Soil, the nature of the Strata immediately underneath; the nature and diſtance of the Manure beſt fitted for their improvement, and the expence of making the neceſſary Roads or Canals for conveying ſuch Manure into and through the ſame from the neareſt or moſt convenient public high Road or Canals, and for the carrying out the future produce of the Bog Land when cultivated to the neareſt or moſt public Roads or Canals; together with the opinion of the ſaid Commiſſioners of ſuch meaſures as they ſhall deem neceſſary or expedient for carrying into ſpeedy effect the Drainage, Cultivation, and Improvement of all ſuch Bogs, and the future increaſe of Timber in *Ireland*, by providing for the plantation and preſervation of Trees in ſuch parts thereof as ſhall be beſt fitted for the purpoſe.

Appointment of new Commiſſioners.

And be it further Enacted, That in caſe of any vacancy or vacancies by death or reſignation of any one or more of the Commiſſioners herein named, or to be appointed by virtue of this Act during the continuance thereof, it ſhall and may be lawful to and for the Lord Lieutenant or other Chief Governor or Governors of *Ireland* for the time being to nominate and appoint ſuch perſon or perſons as he or they may think proper to ſupply ſuch vacancy or vacancies; and every perſon ſo nominated and appointed ſhall be ſubject to the ſame rules, regulations and reſtrictions, and ſhall have the like powers and authorities for carrying this Act into execution to all intents and purpoſes whatſoever as if he had been named in this Act.

No Salary to Commiſſioners.

And be it further Enacted, That all and every perſon and perſons who ſhall act as a Commiſſioner or Commiſſioners under this Act, ſhall ſo act without any Salary, Recompence or Reward whatever.

Oath of Commiſſioners.

And be it further Enacted, That every Commiſſioner herein nominated or to be appointed by virtue of this Act, ſhall before he begins to carry the ſame into execution, take an Oath before any Magiſtrate or before ſome other of the ſaid Commiſſioners for the time being (which Oath any one ſuch Commiſſioner, having firſt taken the ſaid Oath himſelf, is hereby authorized and required to adminiſter); and ſuch Oath ſhall be in the words or to the effect following (that is to ſay)

> "I. *A. B.* do ſwear, That I will faithfully, impartially, and truly, "according to the beſt of my ſkill and judgment, execute the "ſeveral powers and truſts veſted in me by an Act of the forty-"ninth year of the reign of King GEORGE the Third, intituled, "An Act [*here recite the Title of this Act*] according to the true "tenor and purport of the ſaid Act. So help me GOD."

Commiſſioners empowered to meet and make enquiries.

And be it further Enacted, That it ſhall and may be lawful for the ſaid Commiſſioners, and they are hereby authorized and required as ſoon after as may be, to meet and ſit from time to time, for the purpoſe of carrying this Act into execution, in ſuch place or places as they ſhall find moſt convenient, with or without adjournment, and from time to time to proceed by all ſuch ways and means as they ſhall judge expedient for carrying into execution the proviſions of this Act; and for that purpoſe it ſhall and may be lawful for the ſaid Commiſſioners or any of them, and they are hereby authorized, empowered and required to call before them, and to examine upon Oath (which Oath they or any one of them are hereby authorized to adminiſter) all and every perſon and perſons whomſoever whom the ſaid Commiſſioners ſhall think fit

To examine Perſons on Oath;

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fit to examine touching all matters and things neceſſary for the execution of the powers veſted in the ſaid Commiſſioners by this Act; and the ſaid Commiſſioners or any of them are hereby alſo authorized and required to appoint and employ ſuch Engineers, Surveyors, Workmen, Clerks, Officers and Perſons as they ſhall think proper for the execution of this Act, and to give and adminiſter to every ſuch Engineer, Surveyor, Workman, Clerk, Officer or Perſon, as they ſhall think fitting ſo to do, an Oath for his true and faithful demeanour in all things relating to the due performance of the truſt repoſed in him by the ſaid Commiſſioners, and in all other things touching the Premiſes; which Engineers, Surveyors, Workmen, Clerks, Officers and other Perſons are hereby reſpectively required faithfully to execute and perform the ſaid truſts in them ſeverally and reſpectively repoſed, without taking any thing for ſuch their employment or ſervice, other than ſuch Salary, Wages, Allowance and Reward as the ſaid Commiſſioners, or any or more of them, ſhall direct and appoint in that behalf.

and to appoint Engineers, Surveyors, &c. for the execution of this Act.

5 And be it further Enacted, That for the execution of the purpoſes of this Act, it ſhall and may be lawful for the ſaid Commiſſioners or any one of them, or any perſon or perſons acting under them or employed by them, and they are hereby reſpectively authorized and empowered from time to time to enter into and upon all and every or any ſuch Bogs, and to ſurvey the ſame and to aſcertain the Boundaries thereof, and the Nature and Strata, Soil and Compoſition thereof, and alſo to bore, dig, cut, trench, get, remove, take and carry away any Earth, Stone, Clay, Soil, Rubbiſh, Trees, Roots of Trees, Gravel or Sand, or other matters and things which may be dug or got in, upon or out of ſuch Bogs, as may be deemed requiſite, neceſſary or proper for the aſcertaining the Nature, Strata, Soil and Compoſition of ſuch Bogs; and alſo to enter upon any Lands or Grounds through which the ſaid Commiſſioners, or any Surveyor, Engineer or Workman employed under them, ſhall conceive it to be expedient to carry a Drain for the purpoſes intended by this Act, and with that view to examine, by boring or otherwiſe, the Soil and the under Strata of the Soil therein, ſo as to enable them to aſcertain the Nature, Strata, Soil and Compoſition of ſuch Land, and thereby aſcertain the expedience and eſti-
6 mate the expence of carrying the courſe of the Drain through the ſame; they the ſaid Commiſſioners, their ſeveral Engineers, Surveyors, Agents, Deputies, Officers and Workmen doing as little damage as may be in the execution of the ſeveral powers to them hereby granted, and making Satisfaction to the Owners of and other perſons intereſted in any ſuch Lands and Grounds which ſhall be prejudiced, for all Damages to be by them ſuſtained in or by the execution of all or any of the powers of this Act, in caſe the ſame ſhall be demanded, in the ſame manner and under ſuch reſtrictions as the Overſeers of Inland Navigation or public Roads in Ireland are authorized and directed by ſeveral Acts in force in Ireland to make Compenſation; and this Act ſhall be ſufficient to indemnify the ſaid Commiſſioners and their Engineers, Surveyors, Agents, Officers and Workmen, and all other perſons whomſoever, for what they or any of them ſhall do in reſpect thereof by virtue of the powers by this Act granted to them reſpectively.

Commiſſioners and their Surveyors, &c. empowered to enter on Lands to ſurvey and aſcertain the Nature of the Soil, &c.

And be it further Enacted, That it ſhall be lawful for the Truſtees of the Linen and Hempen Manufactures in Ireland, and for the Dublin So-
7 ciety, to permit the ſaid Commiſſioners to meet and ſit in any of the Buildings or Apartments appropriated to their uſe, if they ſhall think proper; any Bye Law or Regulation to the contrary notwithſtanding.

Commiſſioners may be allowed to ſit in the Houſe of the LinenBoard, or Dublin Society.

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Commissioners shall report their Proceedings to Lord Lieutenant and Parliament, with Plans for the Cultivation of the Bogs, &c.

And be it further Enacted, That the said Commissioners shall with as much expedition as they can, and from time to time at their discretion and as often as they shall be thereunto required, give and deliver an Account and Report of their Proceedings in writing under the hands and seals of them or any three of them to the Lord Lieutenant or other Chief Governor or Governors of Ireland, to be laid before His Majesty, and also to both Houses of Parliament; in which Account and Report the said Commissioners shall specify, set forth and give Descriptions and Maps of the Nature, Extent, Situation, Soil and under Stratum of each Bog in Ireland on which they shall report, as far as they can ascertain the same, together with a Map of the course of the Drains proposed for draining the same, the Falls therein, and Estimates of the Expence of executing such Drains, and the Names of the Parties who are Proprietors of or interested in or entitled to, or who claim any right or interest in any such 8
Bogs or any part thereof and to what extent, as far as they shall have reasonable grounds of knowledge thereof, adding at the same time such observations as shall occur to the said Commissioners; and such Plans for the inclosing, improving or reclaiming such Bogs, and rendering the same fit for Cultivation, as may appear to the said Commissioners to be proper to be adopted, specifying to what purpose of Cultivation all and every or any of the said Bogs may in their opinion best be applied, with a due regard to the planting and preservation of Timber Trees thereon, and suggesting also any Legislative or other Measures which the said Commissioners may deem expedient or necessary to be adopted for carrying into speedy effect the Drainage or Cultivation of such Bogs, in order that the said Bogs, or such of them as may be found fit and capable of being drained, improved and cultivated, may be brought into Cultivation in the manner most beneficial and advantageous to the Public, as well as in respect to produce of Grain, and growth of Flax and Hemp, as by the plantation of Timber Trees thereon, as expeditiously and efficaciously as possible.

On Application of Proprietors of small Bogs, Commissioners may make enquiries as to the same under this Act.

Provided always, and be it Enacted, That in case any Proprietor or 9
Proprietors of any Bog or part of a Bog in Ireland, consisting by repute or estimate of less than Acres, shall make application in writing under his or their hand to the said Commissioners, requesting them to exercise the provisions of this Act with respect to such Bog, it shall and may be lawful for the said Commissioners to proceed in respect of such Bog in like manner as by this Act they are authorized and empowered to do with respect to all Bogs which exceed the extent of Acres as aforesaid.

Treasury of Ireland may issue Money to defray the Expences attending this Act.

And be it further Enacted, That it shall and may be lawful for the Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury in Ireland, or the Lord High Treasurer of Ireland for the time being, and they are hereby authorized and required to issue and cause to be issued upon the Warrant or Warrants of the Lord Lieutenant or other Chief Governor or Governors of Ireland for the time being, all such sums of Money not exceeding Pounds in the whole, to the Commissioners under this Act, out of any part of the Public Monies remaining in His Majesty's Exchequer of Ireland; which sums so issued shall be employed by the said Commissioners for the payment of Surveyors, Engineers, Workmen, Clerks, Messengers and other Officers, and in defraying all the necessary 10
charges in or about the execution of the powers of this Act, in such manner and in such proportions as shall be appointed by the said Commissioners under this Act, or any or more of them, by writing under their hands and seals in that behalf, and that such sums shall be accounted for by the said Commissioners, or the person or persons to whom the

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the ſame ſhall be iſſued or paid before the Commiſſioners of Impreſt Accounts in Ireland, in like manner as monies granted or impreſted for any public work; and no fees or other charges ſhall be taken or demanded for the iſſuing or payment of the ſame.

Perſons giving falſe Evidence guilty of

And be it further Enacted, That if any perſon or perſons ſhall upon his, her or their examination before the ſaid Commiſſioners, or any of them, wilfully and corruptly give falſe Evidence, every ſuch perſon ſo offending, and being thereof duly convicted, ſhall be, and he, ſhe and they is and are hereby declared to be ſubject and liable to ſuch Pains and Penalties as by any Law now in force and effect in Ireland perſons guilty of are ſubject and liable to.

Continuance of Act.

And be it further Enacted, That this Act ſhall continue and be in force until

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To appoint Commiſſioners to enquire and examine into the nature and extent of the ſeveral Bogs in *Ireland*, and the practicability of Draining and Cultivating them, and the beſt means of effecting the ſame.

Ordered, by The Houſe of Commons, *to be printed,*
15*th May* 1809.

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